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TO : Department of State

755.00/8-1950 NEA
MESSAGE CENTER

FROM : LEOPOLDVILLE 34 August 19, 1950

1950 SEP 18 AM 9 10

REF : None

SUBJECT : OPINION OF GOVERNOR GENERAL ON EVENTS IN BELGIUM FOLLOWING RETURN OF LEOPOLD III

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ACTION NEA
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I have the honor to report that yesterday evening at a dinner party, Governor General Eugene Jungers expressed himself very openly on the recent riots in Belgium over the return of Leopold III. Mrs. Pierre Wigny, wife of the Minister of Colonies in the previous Belgian Government, was also present.

Governor General Jungers is of Flemish origin, and is reported to be a staunch Catholic. Therefor, he might be expected to be a partisan of Leopold III. He entered into a discussion with Mrs. Wigny of the recent riots in Belgium and expressed the opinion that the rioters should have been put down with a strong hand. Mrs. Wigny pointed out that a large part of the Gendarmery had been concentrated at Brussels, that it might have been possible to quell riots in Brussels with considerable bloodshed, but there were many other cities in Belgium, and that it was not possible to prevent riots everywhere. Nevertheless Governor General Jungers insisted that appropriate measures should have been taken at the outset to prevent rioting if possible, and if that were not possible, he insisted that force should have been used on the rioters with bloodshed if necessary.

Having succeeded in this case in having their own way by rioting, he is afraid minorities will again try to have their way by rioting. He concluded the discussion by saying: "Vous allez voir. Nous aurons une revolution."

George D. LaMont
American Consul General

GDL:jc
CC: American Embassy, Brussels
File No. 350

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